लेकिन राष्ट्रभाषा का ऐसा अपनमान कभी इस सदन में और सेंट्रल हॉल में नहीं हुआ जैसा आज हुआ है। यह शर्म और लज्जा की बात है।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: (उत्तर प्रदेश) मैडम, हम अपने आप को इससे सम्बद्ध करते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)....

उपसभापति: भंडारी जी ने नाम दिया है। रामदेव भंडारी जी बोलिए। आपको हिंदी में बोलना चाहिए।

श्री रामदेव भंडारी (बिहार): डॉ वाई लक्ष्मी प्रसाद द्वारा जो उल्लेख किया गया है। इस सदन में, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूं। मैडम, जब भी ज्वाइंट सेशन हुआ है और राष्ट्रपति जी ने संबोधित किया है, उनका भाषण हिंदी में भी हुआ है। हम हिंदी को राजभाषा के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित करना चाहते हैं। संविधान सभा में हिंदी को राजभाषा के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित करने के बारे में चर्चा हुई थी। राष्ट्रपति जी ने संसदीय राजभाषा समिति के चार प्रतिवेदनों पर हस्ताक्षर भी किए हैं।

उपसभापति: अब राष्ट्रपति जी के ऊपर कोई टिप्पणी नहीं होगी इस हाऊस में। हमारी ऐसी परम्परा रही है।

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: मैडम, मैं सरकार की बात कर रहा हूं।

उपसभापति: सरकार ने नहीं बोला है।

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: इस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन तो सरकार ने किया होगा?

उपसभापति: हम आपको समझा दें कि क्या हुआ है। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन पार्लियामेंट की तरफ से हुआ और उसमें सभी लोग अंग्रेजी में बोले। ठीक है, मैं आपकी भावना समझती हूं। मैं खुद हिंदी में बोलती हूं। देखिए, मैं हिंदी में बात कर रही हूं आपसे। आपने अपनी बात कह दी। कौन क्यों नहीं। कैसे नहीं बोला, किसने नहीं किया। ये सब बातें हम रिकॉर्ड में नहीं रखते। इसलिए आप सिर्फ हिंदी से जुड़ जाइए।

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: मैडम, मैं चाहता हूं कि हिंदी का सम्मान और हिंदी की प्रतिष्ठा बनी रहे। इसकी उपेक्षा नहीं होनी चाहिए। इसके लिए किसी भी तरह का असम्मान प्रकट नहीं करना चाहिए, यह मेरी भावना है और यही बात मैं आपके माध्यम से प्रकट करना चाहता हूं।

उपसभापति: आपकी भावना का मैंने बहुत ख्याल कर लिया है।

श्री ओ॰ पी॰ कोहली: (दिल्ली): मैडम, मैं भी अपने आप को इनसे सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

उपसभापति: सब करते हैं। हम सब लोग इंडियन है। Now, we will take up the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1996. Hon. Minister, Mr. Chidambaram, is with us. We had taken a decision that it has a very limited scope and we are not going to have any discussion on it. Mr. Minister, you just move the motion, I will pass it.

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam, I rise to move: That the Bill further to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, I have an amendment.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the amendment .....(*interruptions*) Then I have a discussion on that and I will make you to sit till 8.00 o' clock .....(*interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) The Government of India has extended 100% deduction, under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act, to donations made to this fund by promulgating an Ordinance on the 14th November, 1996, to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961. We took the step in view of the large-scale damage to property and to demonstrate our solidarity with the people and the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the time of distress. Now, I move the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1996, as passed by the Lok Sabha to replace the Ordinance. Madam, I hope, this will help in generating enough funds to meet the relief and rehabilitation of cyclone afected people. I request the hon. Members to pass this Bill without any discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chidambaram, Mr. Narayanasamy, wanted to move an amendment. He feels that you are only talking about Andhra Pradesh, while this cyclone had no limitation of its damage and it has also dam-

aged the areas of Pondicherry. So, the amendment should extend to Pondicherry.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, I will answer that. Madam, the approval of the President is required to move an amendment to this Bill. We have sent it to the President and the recommendation of the President has not yet been received. this is the technical difficulty in accepting an amendment. Substantively, I wish to say, our information is, Yanam which is an enclave in Andhra Pradesh belongs to Pondicherry. No other part of the Unioin Territory of Pondicherry has been affected. Only Yanam was affected. Now, in Yanam, according to our information, eight persons have died and some thatched houses have collapsed. The Pondicherry administration has already requested the Government of Andhra pradesh not withstanding the fact that Yanam falls within the Union Territory of Pondicherry, that they should extend help and assistance to the families who have lost their houses as well as to the relations of persons who have died. I undertake to speak to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to see that the people of Yanam are also extended assistance. Therefore, lest this Bill be passed now. Those who have been affected in Yanam would also be extended relief and rehabilitation. The Pondicherry Administration has already requested the Government of Andhra Pradesh. I am sure the Government of Andhra Pradesh would also look after those who have been affected in Yanam and provide them relief.

The question was proposed.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Podicherry): Madam, I may be permitted to speak.

I have heard the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister is not giving the correct picture about the number of people who lost their lives and the extent of loss of property. Also, a number of people have not yet been traced. I think it is not known to the hon. Minister. I think proper information has not been given to him.

Madam. as per the statement made in this House by the Minister of Agriculture, some 27 people have died. It is in the record of this House. Some 72 people are missing. More than 50,000 people have been affected. Seventy-eight industries have collapsed.

The State Government spent Rs. 4.5 crores. The State Government spent Rs. 4.5 crores from its corpus, for the purpose of giving relief to the people. We visited the area. We were there for three days. We supervised the relief operations.

I would like to bring this to the notice of this House. I do not know whether the hon. Finance Minister has information about it. The Chief Minister of Pondicherry — the Chief Minister of Pondicherry is from the DMK; the Tamil Maanila Congress of Mr. Chidambaram is an alliance partner; we are the Opposition Party in Pondicherry — wrote to the Central Government on 8th November, 1996. Madam, the Chief Minister wrote a letter to the Prime Minister. He wrote to the Finance Minister also, seeking exemption from the Income-Tax Act for the purpose of getting donations from various organisations and the general public to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The Chief Minister of Pondicherry addressed this letter to the hon. Finance Minister on 13th November, 1996. This is the position.

Madam, we are not at the mercy of any State which is nearby. If they come forward voluntarily and help us, it is all right. But we spent money from our corpus. Donations made to our Chief Minister's Relief Fund should be given hundred per cent exemption, in the same way as is being done in the case of Andhra Pradesh. For getting relief, why should we depend on some other State?

Therefore, my request is that we should wait. Let us wait till the hon. President gives his consent. Let us take

up this Bill tommorrow. Let it be lossed tommorrow, if the hon. Minsiter agrees.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: With great respect, I do not agree.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hanumanthappa wants to speak.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Madam, I am thankful to the Government for coming forward with the proposal to help the people in distress.

Madam, be it cyclone or floods or drought, they are all natural calamities. They should not be treated in isolation. Therefore, when the Government comes before the House with such a proposal, they should keep this in mind.

On the one hand, Andhra Pradesh suffered heavily due to the cyclone. On the other side, Orissa is having an unprecedented drought. Thousands of people have been affected. Actually, they are in distress. Our hearts go out to these people also. When such a question comes before this House, we should treat all the natural calamities alike and we should come forward with a helping hand to all those people who are in distress.

I would request the Government to take note of it. They should help these in whatever way it is possible. All the natural calamities should be treated on par. All the people who are in distress, whether they have been affected by cyclone or floods or severe drougth, should be treated on par.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Members.

Chief Minister's Relief Fund is there in every State. All these Relief Funds have not been given hundred per cent exemption. They are given exemption under another section. I think the exemption is 50 per cent.

The larger question is: how the Chief Minister's Relief Fund should be treated. This larger question is under consideration. When I consider this question, I will take into account Mr. Hanumanthappa's suggestion, which is a correct suggestion. But we are now dealing with something which is of an unprecedented magnitude.

There was a massive and severe cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. The Government recommended to the President to promulgate an Ordinance. The President promulgated an Ordinance. it is to replace that Ordinance that I have come forward with this Bill before the House.

The larger question of how the Chief Minister's Relief Fund should be treated is under my consideration. When we take a decision, we will come forward with it before the House.

Now, I appreciate what Mr. Narayanasamy says. I started by saying what my information is my information may not be complete. If the Union territory of Pondicherry has spent money, surely it is entitled to be reimbursed that money, to be given money there is no question about it. There is a Calamity Relief Fund and there is a National Calamity Relief Fund also. The Chief Minister of Pondicherry has sought an appointment to see me. I will see him and whatever assistance we can give to the Chief Minister of Pondicherry will be given. That has nothing to do with this Bill. It is not through this Bill that relief is going to be given. The relief to be given to Pondicherry and to Yanam is a different issue.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, I think the hon. Minister has not understood me. I will take only half a minute, Madam.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have understood you. Please let me complete.

what this Bill does is this. Following the cyclone, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Cyclone Relief Fund, 1996 was set up as a special fund. For that Fund I am giving 100 per cent exemption. It is not for the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's general fund. Every Chief Minister has got a fund. But this is known as the

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Cyclone Relief Fund, 1996. It is a special fund to which all of us are giving money, all the States are giving money. For that Fund we are making a special exemption. Pondicherry's request for relief will be considered sympathetically. I am a member of the National Calamity Relief Fund. When the proposal comes, when the request comes, we will consider it sympathetically and enough funds will be provided to Pondicherry.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, only two lines from the letter. The hurricane which affected that area also affected the Yanam region of the Pondicherry State.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: That is about.....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: A fund has been created. Why don't you understand that? ..*(Interruptions)*..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let's hear him.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, the Chief Minister wrote a letter to the hon. Finance Minister: "In my State, many industries, charitable institutions, social organisations, philantropic-minded people have come forward and donated liberally to the Chief Minister's Welfare Fund, and it is operated for alleviating the distress of the affected persons due to natural calamities like the hurricane that took place. In this connection, I understand that the matter of exemption under the Income-tax Act is necessary." This is what they wanted. This is the letter he has written to the hon. Finance Minister. When it comes to the question of the Calamity Relief Fund especially created for this purpose, that can be included. What is the problem in it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will explain to you. After your amendment was received by our Secretary, it was sent to the President for his consideration. A reply hasn't come yet. Now what the hon. Minister is saying is that already the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has established a special fund—the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Cyclone Relief Fund, 1996—only for this limited purpose and, for that, the President has promulgated an Ordinance and only in that respect this Bill is being limitedly brought. Your request cannot be included, according to him, because the Chief Minister of Pondicherry hasn't got a separate fund for this purpose and he has not requested for it. If he does that and comes before the Government, they will definitely consider it. But you cannot have one State amalgamated with another for the purpose of the special fund. Having said that, the Minister also said that that area which is affected and which is adjacent to the area affected in Andhra Pradesh—though it belongs to Pondicherry—will be taken care of. Plus, whatever aid there is, they will give it to your State directly under the Calamity Relief Fund.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It will be given.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, the whole problem is that for the Union territory there is no separate Calamity Relief Fund.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will give ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, one moment.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Would you please allow me to speak?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Please listen to me and then speak.

Madam, I agree with Mr. Narayanasamy that there should be funds for the affected people of Pondicherry also, and when some sort of concession is being given, whether the same concession can be given to that area also...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There has to be another Bill.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My point is, since technically it is not possible to get the permission of Rashtrapatiji today, if we stop it, it means the whole thing will stop. Instead of that, let us pass the Bill and let us have a little faith in Mr. Chidambaram that enough funds out of the fund that is generated out of this tax exemption....

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, let us not get confused about this. We do not want any spokesperson for this.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: You do not know what he has said. Please don't interrupt.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Renukaji, I know that Andhra Pradesh has been affected, but so have others been affected. Have some patience for all the people who have been affected by cyclone...*(Interruptions)*...

Not all the recommendations being made by this House are becoming laws.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am only reiterating what my hon. friend, Mr. Chidambaram, has said. I am only saying this. Let Mr. Narayanasamy as also me have a little faith in him. This hurdle of extending financial help to that area will be taken care of. Let us not stand in the way of passing this Bill for Andhra Pradesh.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No calamity, especially a cyclone, has got a water-tight compartment. It can affect anybody, and it can spread out. But here the question is limited because already the Fund is being created, especially by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, for 1996 only. I hope there would be no cyclone in 1997.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have already assured Mr. Narayanasamy that funds will be provided to Pondicherry to take care of the affected people there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Funds will be provided. Why do you want to have it for this only. No Finance Minister has ever given such a categorical assurance. I am a witness to it. If it does not happen the same way, please come to me. I know you can come anywhere like hurricane. So, let us go ahead.

The question is:

That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is something about coal. *(Interruptions)* Let us take it up. We will not pass the Bill today.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): I have an objection about moving the Bill.

May I place the objection before you?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Before you raise an objection, I adjourn the House till eleven o'clock tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at forty nine minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 10th December, 1996.